Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for forming a composite product, the method comprising:

providing a projection component comprising discrete projections of resin extending from a surface of a base;

locally heating distal ends of the projections using a non-contact heat source;

foreshortening the projections; and

applying a preformed substrate to the heated distal ends to adhere the preformed substrate to the distal ends of the projection component;

wherein the preformed substrate includes exposed fibers facing the distal ends and the step of applying the preformed substrate includes encapsulating said fibers with the resin of the distal ends.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the preformed substrate is bonded to resin of the distal ends without use of an adhesive.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of applying the preformed substrate includes pressing the preformed substrate against the heated distal ends.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein pressure applied to the preformed substrate is between about 1 N/cm^2 and about 100 N/cm^2.

5. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein pressure is applied by a pair of pressure rolls.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the distal ends are heated to a temperature greater than that of the preformed substrate.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of foreshortening the projections occurs while applying the preformed substrate.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of foreshortening the projections occurs prior to applying the preformed substrate.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of foreshortening the projections occurs subsequent to applying the preformed substrate.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the projections include heads that extend radially outward in one or more discrete directions.

12. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the projections include heads that extend radially outward in multiple directions.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the non-contact heat source is one of flame, electrically heated nichrome wire, and radiant heater blocks.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the preformed substrate comprises a material ~~is~~ selected from the group consisting of films, woven materials, paper, thermoplastic sheet, non-woven webs of fibers and mesh materials.

16. (Original) The method of claim 1 further including:

continuously introducing molten resin to a gap defined adjacent a periphery of a rotating mold roll, such that the resin forms at least a part of the base of the projection component at the periphery of the mold roll and fills an array of fixed cavities defined in the rotating mold roll to form the projections;

solidifying the resin; and

stripping the resin from the periphery of the mold roll by pulling the solidified projections from their respective cavities.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the projections are integrally molded with the base.

18. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the preformed substrate comprises a different material than the projections.

19. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein the preformed substrate has a higher softening point than the projections.

20. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the preformed substrate comprises less than about 40 percent of a total thickness of the composite.

21. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein the preformed substrate comprises less than about 20 percent of a total thickness of the composite.

22. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein applying the preformed substrate includes bonding the preformed substrate to the distal ends of the projections in discrete bonding zones

that are spaced-apart from the base.

23. (Original) The method of claim 22 further comprising removing the preformed substrate from the distal ends.

24. (Original) The method of claim 23, wherein the step of applying the preformed substrate includes bonding a material carried by the substrate to the distal ends of the projections.

25. (Original) The method of claim 24, wherein the material is selected from a group consisting of pigments, sand, silicone, fiberglass and paints.

26. (Original) The method of claim 23, wherein the step of removing the preformed substrate leaves an imprint within resin of the distal ends of the projections.

27. (Original) The method of claim 23, wherein the step of removing the preformed substrate comprises manually removing the preformed substrate.

28. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein applying the preformed substrate to the distal ends to bond the preformed substrate includes contacting the base with the preformed substrate.

29-80. (Cancelled)

81. (Currently Amended) A method for forming a composite product, the method comprising:

providing a projection component comprising discrete projections of resin extending from a surface of a base;

locally heating distal ends of the projections;

foreshortening the projections; and

applying a sheet-form preformed fibrous substrate to the locally heated distal ends to bond

fibers of the substrate to resin of the distal ends by encapsulating the fibers with the resin of the distal ends.

82. (Previously presented) The method of claim 81 wherein the preformed substrate is selected from the group consisting of woven materials, non-woven webs of fibers and mesh materials.